



Father Dueñas Memorial School

October 9, 2009

Dear Students, Parents, Alumni, and FD friends from near and far,

We have just wrapped up the first quarter yesterday with the examinations. As I write, the teachers are all busy correcting papers and the students are on a long week-end break after working hard all quarter. As expected, a good number will reap their rewards of good grades commensurate with efforts expended. Unfortunately, for a significant number who tended to cut corners and take things easy, the grades will be disappointing, to say the least.

I congratulate all those who got good grades. I encourage all those who got less than satisfactory grades to do better. This is a great time as any to remind ourselves that FD is not just “strong in the faith,” but ought to be just as strong in academics, even as a lot of time and effort, too, is put on athletics and sports.

The parents’ football support group (FPSG), I am glad to note, is setting their sights on a fundraiser. I have just approved their request to be allowed to do fund-raising via a **2009 Football Team Souvenir Booklet**. I ask that parents support them in any way they can. I challenge them to set their sights even higher – dreaming of and planning for, our very own field for our own soccer, football, and rugby teams!

I take this opportunity to thank all the parents who have shown themselves very supportive of all our concerns in FD. One clear example of this is the issue of the amendments to the **Students’ Handbook** with regard to **Student Rights and Responsibilities**, which we have posted a few weeks ago on the website, a hard copy of which you all should have seen and signed accordingly. As you all know, said amendments were meant to put a little more teeth to the rules of discipline so as to safeguard the common good. It did not take me long to realize, for example, that the culture of lying is very rampant among the students. A number of them can easily lie through their teeth. A classical line that is the equivalent of the “dog eating one’s paper” is the line that says “somebody stole my book,” or whatever.

Believe it or not, that same line was used with regard to the amended student handbook. Less than an hour after it was distributed to students, two of them had the gall to use that same stale line – and definitely lame – excuse. In connection with this, about two or three of them, who were unhappy right from day one about many things, even had the temerity to tear up several copies which they spread out for maximum effect on the corridor leading to the cafeteria. Whilst we all have suspicions about who did that, we would rather dwell on the more glaring fact that the overwhelming majority acquiesces to the changes in favor of the common good of all. Thank you all very much.

Here are some forthcoming events that I would like everyone to remember. The first is the **Parent-Teacher conference** slated for **October 19, Monday**. Teachers will be available from **1:00 to 4:00 PM** and from **5:30 to 7:30 PM**. The **business office**, however, will be open only from **7:30 AM to 4:30 PM** on that day. Our soccer, wrestling, and baseball players will also begin slugging it out on October 31. As usual, parents' support for our teams will be needed.

I would like now to speak from the heart. As you know, typhoon Ketsana (Ondoy in the Philippines), along with typhoon Parma (Pepeng) brought a lot of destruction and misery to millions of people in the Philippines in a space of less than a fortnight. I am making an appeal for cash donations for the millions of victims of the twin typhoons that wrought havoc in the Philippines. Since one of the courses taught in Theology has to do with social concerns and social responsibility, I thought of challenging the whole FD community to make these concerns come alive in something concrete and palpable.

I therefore make an appeal to all of you. Whatever you could contribute in cash for this purpose will be appreciated. You can make your checks payable to FD. Just make sure you specify it is for typhoon victims in the Philippines. Originally, I thought of getting a container, but the thought that it would take too long to fill it, process it, and ship it – and take it out of customs in Manila – made me decide to ask for cash donations instead.

I thank you all in advance for your generosity and kindness. It is one way of showing our solidarity with those who happened to be in the path of the raging typhoons, and our gratitude to the Lord, especially given the fact that the very same typhoons spared the island of Guam twice in a row.

Lastly, this first quarter has been very busy for me. I had to fill-in for two classes while awaiting the coming of two who were not yet on board. Up till now, I still handle one Theology class. All this, plus the nitty gritty of everyday administrative work, has prevented me from attending to some important matters. One such important matter has to do with the **Parents' Advisory Board**.

Please do not count yourselves out of the loop. I intend to call for a meeting of the PAB real soon, early on in the second quarter. So, may I tell the PAB members: You are not off the hook yet. There is a whole lot of work that needs to be done. Hopefully, together we can take up the slack before the Christmas rush sets in.

May Santa Marian Camalin ever intercede for us. May Fr. Duenas, in whose memory our school is named, guide us and lead us in our search for what is best for the school.

Sincerely,

Fr. Vitaliano Chito Dimaranan, SDB
Principal